



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Five Proposed Initiatives Enter Circulation

1. *School Funding Allocations. State-required Percentage for Direct Classroom Instruction. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.*
2. *Charter Schools. Additional Authorization and Funding. Initiative Statute.*
3. *Public School Teachers. Waiting Period for Permanent Status. Dismissal. Initiative Statute.*
4. *Appropriation Limits. School Funding, Class Size Requirement. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.*
5. *Fees. Appropriation Limits. Public School Funding, Class Size Requirements. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.*

SACRAMENTO, CA --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley announced yesterday that the proponents of five initiatives may begin collecting petition signatures for their measures.

The Attorney General's official title and summary of each follows:

SCHOOL FUNDING ALLOCATIONS. STATE-REQUIRED PERCENTAGE FOR DIRECT CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

- Requires school districts to allocate and spend at least 75% of total operating expenditures on direct classroom instruction, as defined, with a 1% increase each year for five years, resulting in minimum spending of 80% in the sixth year.
- Permits State Board of Education to adopt implementing regulations.
- Requires that school accountability report card include specified budget and expense information for individual schools and school districts.

The Legislative Analyst's and Department of Finance's summary of the estimated fiscal impact on state and local governments indicates that this measure would redirect hundreds of millions to billions of dollars in school spending from non-classroom activities to direct classroom instruction.

The proponent, Bonnie Garcia, must collect 598,105 signatures of registered voters, equal in number to eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election, in order to qualify the proposed constitutional amendment. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions for this measure is August 1, 2005. The initiative proponent can be reached at 760-202-7714.

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CHARTER SCHOOLS. ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING.
INITIATIVE STATUTE.

- Requires State Board of Education to permit public and nonprofit chartering authorities, other than local school districts and county education boards, to operate charter schools.
- Authorizes State Board of Education to relieve chartering authorities and charter schools of certain existing legal restrictions.
- Increases charter school renewal period from “five years” to “five to fifteen years.”
- Requires minimum State Funding of 80% for charter school lease costs.
- Expands eligibility for grants by reducing percentage of financially needy students required to qualify.
- Permits arbitration of disputes regarding charter school use of public school facilities.

The Legislative Analyst and Finance Department’s summary of the estimated fiscal impact on state and local governments indicates that the initial annual state cost could be in the low tens of millions of dollars – potentially growing substantially in future years – to reimburse certain charter schools for the costs of their leased facilities.

The proponent of this measure is also Bonnie Garcia. As a proposed statutory change, she needs to collect 373,816 signatures of registered voters, equal in number to five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election, in order to qualify her initiative. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions for this measure is August 1, 2005. The initiative proponent can be reached at 760-202-7714.

PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS. WAITING PERIOD FOR PERMANENT STATUS.
DISMISSAL. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

- Increases length of time required before a teacher may become a permanent employee from two complete consecutive school years to five complete consecutive school years.
- Measure applies to teachers whose probationary period commenced during or after the 2003-2004 fiscal year.
- Authorizes school boards to dismiss a permanent teaching employee who receives two consecutive unsatisfactory performance evaluations.

The Legislative Analyst’s and Department of Finance’s summary of the estimated fiscal impact on state and local governments indicates that this measure would have unknown impact on school district teacher salary costs as a result of changes in teacher tenure and dismissal practices. The fiscal impact could vary significantly district by district.

Proponent Bonnie Garcia, must collect 373,816 signatures of registered voters for her proposed statutory measure. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions for this measure is August 1, 2005. The initiative proponent can be reached at 760-202-7714.

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APPROPRIATION LIMITS. SCHOOL FUNDING, CLASS SIZE REQUIREMENT.
INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

- Amends State Constitution to provide that no new appropriation limit shall apply to state or local government unless Director of Finance and Superintendent of Public Instruction mutually determine that per-student public school expenditures equal or exceed the average of the 10 states with highest per-student spending for elementary and high schools, and class size equals or is less than the average class size of the 10 states with the lowest class size for elementary and high schools.

The Legislative Analyst's and Department of Finance's summary of the estimated fiscal impact on state and local governments indicates that this measure would have no current fiscal impact on the state or local governments. It would restrict any future appropriation or spending limit from taking effect until spending on K-12 education was increased dramatically.

The proponents, Roberta B. Johansen and James C. Harrison, must collect 598,105 signatures of registered voters in order to qualify their proposed constitutional amendment. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions for this measure is August 1, 2005. The initiative proponents can be reached at 510-346-6200.

FEES. APPROPRIATION LIMITS. PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING, CLASS SIZE REQUIREMENTS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

- Amends State Constitution's tax definitions to exclude state/local government fees charged for regulating activities in amounts not exceeding the reasonable cost of services and not based on real property values.
- Prohibits any new appropriations limit from applying to state/local government unless per-student public school expenditures equal or exceed average of the 10 states with highest per-student spending for elementary and high schools, and class size equals or is less than the average of 10 states with lowest class size for elementary and high schools.

The Legislative Analyst's and Department of Finance's summary of the estimated fiscal impact on state and local governments indicates that this measure would have no current fiscal impact on the state or local governments. It would restrict any future appropriation or spending limit from taking effect until spending on K-12 education was increased dramatically.

The proponents, Roberta B. Johansen and James C. Harrison, must collect 598,105 signatures of registered voters in order to qualify their proposed constitutional amendment. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions for this measure is August 1, 2005. The initiative proponents can be reached at 510-346-6200.